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FM AMEMBASSY HELSINKI
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 3393
INFO RUCNMEM/EU MEMBER STATES COLLECTIVE
RUEHDM/AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS 0059

C O N F I D E N T I A L HELSINKI 000394

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STATE FOR NEA/ELA, EUR/ERA AND EUR/NB

E.O. 12958: DECL: 05/25/2017
TAGS: [KDEM](#) [PREL](#) [PHUM](#) [SY](#) [EUN](#) [FI](#)
SUBJECT: FINNISH RESPONSE: SYRIA'S SHAM PRESIDENTIAL
"REFERENDUM"

REF: STATE 71071

Classified By: PolChief Greg Thome, Reasons 1.4 (b) and (d).

(C) PolChief delivered subject demarche to Finnish MFA Deputy Middle East Director Sofie Fromm-Emmesberger May 25. She welcomed our points, noting that Syria's upcoming "referendum" is not a helpful exercise in the region. Finland does not plan to issue any statements prior to the vote, Fromm-Emmesberger said, but may do so in the aftermath and expects the EU will.
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